Message Text

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P 101943Z MAR 78 FM AMEMBASSY MEXICO TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 8856 ALL USCONS MEXICO POUCH

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TAGS: AMGT, PFOR, MX

SUBJECT: U.S. GOALS AND OBJECTIVES IN MEXICO

REF: (A) STATE 36388 (NOTAL), (B) STATE 34007 (NOTAL),

(C) MEXICO 779

- 1. FUNDAMENTAL U.S. OBJECTIVE UNDERLYING NINE GOALS AND OBJECTIVES (REFTEL A) IS PROMOTION OF POLITICAL STABILITY CONSISTENT WITH CHANGE AND ECONOMIC WELL-BEING IN MEXICO. (FOR RATIONALE, SEE 1977 PARM AND 1976 CASP.) EFFORTS TO ACHIEVE SPECIFIC GOALS AND OBJECTIVES SHOULD BE MEASURED AGAINST THIS OBJECTIVE AS WELL AS TAKE ACCOUNT OF OUR BROADER FOREIGN POLICY GOALS, THOSE OF OTHER NATIONS (HOSTILE AND OTHERWISE), AND DOMESTIC POLITICAL CONSIDERATIONS AND CONSTRAINTS.
- 2. MOST COMPLEX POLICY ISSUE IN U.S.-MEXICAN RELATIONS IS HOW TO COPE WITH THE UNDOCUMENTED OR ILLEGAL ALIEN PROBLEM IN A MANNER WHICH WILL NOT (A) UNDERMINE BASIC OBJECTIVE OF A POLITICALLY STABLE AND ECONOMICALLY PROSPEROUS MEXICO, OR (B) INTERFERE WITH THE ATTAINMENT OF OUR OTHER OBJECTIVES AND GOALS. GIVEN MEXICAN OPPOSITION TO CONFIDENTIAL

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IMPLEMENTATION OF MOST OF THE ADMINISTRATION'S PROGRAM TO REDUCE ILLEGAL MIGRATION, THERE IS A SERIOUS POTENTIAL CONFLICT BETWEEN CURRENT U.S. PROPOSALS FOR ACHIEVING GOAL I AND OUR OTHER GOALS (POLITICAL STABILITY/ECONOMIC PROSPERITY AND GOALS II-IX). A PROGRAM TO REDUCE ILLEGAL MIGRATION MAY NOT AUTOMATICALLY HAVE AN ADVERSE IMPACT ON THE ATTAINMENT OF OUR OTHER OBJECTIVES, BUT SOME NEGATIVE

FALLOUT WITH MEXICO IS LIKELY AND SHOULD CAREFULLY BE WEIGHED IN TERMS OF OTHER FOREIGN AND DOMESTIC INTERESTS. ONE FINAL NOTE OF CAUTION: WHILE EMBASSY IS COMMITTED TO PROMOTING ECONOMIC OBJECTIVES OUTLINED IN GOAL II, THE COMPLEX NATURE OF THESE ECONOMIC PROBLEMS AND MEXICAN SENSITIVITIES TO U.S. ASSISTANCE AND ADVICE TEND TO REDUCE OUR DIRECT LEVERAGE IN THIS AREA.

- 3. FOLLOWING IS A SUMMARY OF PLANNED IMPLEMENTING STEPS AND ACHIEVEMENTS BY GOALS:
- I. SUBSTANTIAL REDUCTION IN UNDOCUMENTED ALIEN FLOW.

WHETHER OR NOT CONGRESS ACTS ON LEGISLATIVE PROPOSAL THIS YEAR, WE RECOMMEND THAT USG THROUGH CONSULTATIVE MECHANISM AND IN OTHER WAYS CONTINUE TO SEEK GOM OFFICIAL POSITION AND ENCOURAGE IT TO TAKE SHORT-TERM AND LONGTERM SOCIO-ECONOMIC STEPS TO ALLEVIATE PUSH FACTORS.

SHOULD CONGRESS ENACT PROGRAM THIS YEAR, USG NEEDS TO ASSESS AND CLARIFY ITS ECONOMIC/POLITICAL IMPACT ON MEXICO. FOLLOWING CLARIFICATION OF IMPORTANT QUESTIONS (CITED IN AIRGRAM TO FOLLOW), USG (THROUGH NSC, INTELLIGENCE COMMUNITY, ETC.) SHOULD INITIATE COMPREHENSIVE INTRA-GOVERNMENTAL ASSESSMENT OF (A) THE PROBABLE IMPACT OF USG PROGRAM ON OUR FUNDAMENTAL NATIONAL OBJECCONFIDENTIAL

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TIVE OF POLITICAL STABILITY/ECONOMIC PROSPERITY FOR MEXICO, AND (B) CONSIDERATION OF POLICY OPTIONS FOR SHORT-TERM DIPLOMATIC MANAGEMENT OF PROBLEM TO MINIMIZE ADVERSE FALLOUT ON U.S.-MEXICO RELATIONS AND ATTAINMENT OF OTHER GOALS OUTLINED IN II-IX. WITHIN U.S. DOMESTIC POLITICAL CONSTRAINTS, EMBASSY BELIEVES CONTINUING EFFORT IS NEEDED TO ENGAGE MEXICO IN A COOPERATIVE, BINATIONAL APPROACH TO RESOLUTION OF THIS COMPLEX AND LONGSTANDING PROBLEM.

II. GREATER COOPERATION WITH THE U.S. ON ECONOMIC ISSUES.

THE ECONOMIC GROWTH PATTERNS FOLLOWED BY MEXICO FOR THE LAST THREE DECADES PRODUCED UNTIL 1976 GENERALLY HIGH RATES OF AGGREGATE GROWTH BUT GROWTH ACCOMPANIED BY INCREASING UNEMPLOYMENT AND A WORSENING INCOME DISTRIBUTION, WHICH IN TURN ARE FEEDING ILLEGAL MIGRATION TO THE U.S. THE GOM HAS FOUND IT EXTREMELY DIFFICULT TO CHANGE ITS ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT POLICY BASED ON CAPITAL-INTENSIVE TECHNIQUES, BUT UNLESS IT DOES SO THE UNEMPLOYMENT SITUATION WILL BECOME EVEN WORSE OVER THE NEXT GENERATION.

WITHOUT INTERFERENCE IN INTERNAL AFFAIRS, THE U.S. CAN REVIEW ITS ACTIONS UNDER THE TRADE ACT, AGRICULTURAL MARKETING ORDERS, PROPOSED TAX CHANGES, ETC. TO ENCOURAGE MEXICAN DEVELOPMENT. WE SHOULD ALSO CONTINUE SUPPORT FOR THE SHORT-TERM STABILIZATION POLICIES OF THE IMF AND THE LONGER-TERM DEVELOPMENT POLICIES AND SUGGESTIONS OF THE IBRD.

ALTHOUGH INDIRECT, SOME OF OUR ACTION COURSES COULD BE EFFECTIVE. WE CAN CONTINUE TO ENCOURAGE TRADE LIBERAL-IZATION AND CONSIDERATION ON THE PART OF GOM OF LABOR-

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INTENSIVE EXPANSION THROUGH EMBASSY CONTACTS AND THE CONSULTATIVE MECHANISM.

II-A. NUCLEAR ENERGY AND FISHERIES.

THE EMBASSY RECOMMENDS DIRECT DISCUSSIONS WITH MEXICO ON NUCLEAR FUEL SUPPLY AT THE TIME WASHINGTON JUDGES APPROPRIATE. SEVERAL INITIATIVES ARE MOVING FORWARD ON THE SHRIMP QUESTION. IT IS BELIEVED THIS ISSUE CAN BEST BE HANDLED BY MOVING FORWARD GRADUALLY THROUGH COOPERATION AT THE TECHNICAL LEVEL.

III. IMPROVED COOPERATION ON DRUG INTERDICTION.

NARCOTICS PROGRAM COURSES OF ACTION CONTINUE TO ASSIST GOM TO ERADICATE OPIUM POPPY BEFORE GUM CAN BE HARVESTED, TO INTERDICT MOVEMENT OF ILLICIT DRUGS TO THE

U.S., AND TO DEVELOP GOM'S EFFECTIVE ENFORCEMENT CAPABILITY:

(A) CONTINUE TO PRESS FOR DEVELOPMENT OF A VIABLE NARCOTICS INTELLIGENCE STRUCTURE WITHIN FEDERAL JUDICIAL POLICE (FJP) AND FOR PROFESSIONALIZATION OF FJP AGENTS CONFIDENTIAL

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ASSIGNED TO NARCOTICS. PROVIDE, WHERE APPROPRIATE, SPECIALIZED TRAINING COURSES AND EXPLORE THE FEASIBILITY OF TEMPORARY FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE TO DEVELOP FJP AGENT COMPENSATION PLANS ALONG LINES USED IN THE U.S.; AND

(B) CONTINUE FINANCIAL, TECHNICAL AND COMMODITY ASSISTANCE TO GOM ERADICATION PROGRAM, PERMITTING EXPANSION THROUGHOUT ILLICIT CROP-GROWING AREAS.

IV. STIMULATION OF GREATER MEXICAN ACTION TO DEAL WITH COMMON BORDER PROBLEMS, INCLUDING THOSE NOT WITHIN THE PURVIEW OF THE PRESENT INTERNATIONAL BOUNDARY AND WATER COMMISSION.

EMBASSY RECOMMENDS THAT THE USG USE THE CONSULTATIVE MECHANISM TO (A) ENGAGE THE GOM MORE ACTIVELY IN DEALING WITH BORDER PROBLEMS SUCH AS CRIME AND THE SMUGGLING OF GOODS.—INCLUDING ARMS AND CONTRABAND.—IN BOTH DIRECTIONS, AND (B) PROPOSE THAT MEXICO AND THE U.S. CONSIDER THE CREATION OF A BINATIONAL WORKING GROUP WITH A MANDATE TO STUDY AND ANALYZE COMMON BORDER PROBLEMS AND THEN MAKE A JOINT RECOMMENDATION REGARDING THE MOST EFFECTIVE MEANS OF ADDRESSING THOSE IDENTIFIED.

TO DATE THERE HAS BEEN LITTLE DISCUSSION OR EFFECTIVE ACTION REGARDING BORDER PROBLEMS IN THE CONSULTATIVE MECHANISM OR ITS SUB-GROUPS, ALTHOUGH ENVIRONMENT AUTHORITIES AT THE FEDERAL LEVEL AND SOME STATE AND MUNICIPAL OFFICIALS ON BOTH SIDES OF THE BORDER HAVE BEEN ACTIVE IN THE SEARCH FOR COMMON SOLUTIONS.

V. IMPROVED CONSULAR SERVICES AND THE RESOLUTION OF CONSULAR PROBLEMS.

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EMBASSY'S OPERATIONAL GOALS IN CONSULAR AFFAIRS ARE DEPENDENT ON ADEQUATE NUMBERS OF TRAINED AND MOTIVATED CONSULAR MANPOWER. THIS IS IN SHORT SUPPLY WORLDWIDE IN

THE FACE OF RISING QUANTITATIVE AND QUALITATIVE EXPECTATIONS BY THE PUBLIC AND CONGRESS CONCERNING CONSULAR SERVICES AMERICANS ABROAD ARE ENTITLED TO (ACCOMPANIED BY INCREASING COMPLAINTS ABOUT THE SERVICES THEY ACTUALLY RECEIVE).

VI. COOPERATION ON MULTILATERAL ISSUES.

WE SHOULD CONTINUE TO EXAMINE OUR POSITIONS IN MULTI-LATERAL FORA IN ORDER TO IDENTIFY AREAS OF COMMON INTEREST TO MEXICO AND TRY TO GET MEXICO TO WORK WITH US. MEXICAN SUPPORT IN NORTH/SOUTH ISSUES COULD BE IMPORTANT BECAUSE IT IS ONE OF THE MOST IMPORTANT MEMBERS OF THE GROUP OF 77 BUT LUKEWARM ON SEVERAL GROUP 77 ISSUES. VII. PROMOTION OF HUMAN RIGHTS.

MEXICO HAS A GOOD HUMAN RIGHTS RECORD, WITH TRADITIONAL SUPPORT FOR THE PERSECUTED OF OTHER COUNTRIES AND WITH
FREQUENT PARTICIPATION IN MULTILATERAL APPROACHES IN
HUMAN RIGHTS PROBLEMS. THE GOM IS AWARE OF AND IS TRYING
WITH MIXED SUCCESS TO CORRECT THE MOST FLAGRANT ABUSES OF
HUMAN RIGHTS COMMITTED BY SOME LOWER-LEVEL CIVIL AND
MILITARY OFFICIALS CONTRARY TO OFFICIAL POLICY. THE
EMBASSY WILL SUPPORT EFFORTS TO HAVE GOM SIGN THE
AMERICAN CONVENTION ON HUMAN RIGHTS. WE BELIEVE LOWKEY SUPPORT FOR GROUPS SUCH AS AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL'S
EFFORTS TO IMPROVE CONDITIONS WITHIN MEXICO IS THE MOST
EFFECTIVE USG POLICY AT THIS TIME.

VIII. PROMOTION OF COMMON U.S.-MEXICAN SECURITY

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INTERESTS.

PROMOTION OF COMMON U.S.-MEXICAN SECURITY INTERESTS IS BEING ENHANCED BY CONTINUING EFFORTS TO MAINTAIN A FAVORABLE DISPOSITION OF THE MEXICAN MILITARY TO THE U.S. THIS IS BEING ACCOMPLISHED BY A VARIETY OF PROGRAMS WHICH INCLUDE A MODEST TRAINING ASSISTANCE PROGRAM, EXCHANGE INSTRUCTORS, AND EXCHANGE VISITS. THE NUCLEAR WARSHIPS VISIT AND THE SEARCH AND RESCUE PROBLEMS WILL BE DEVELOPED BY DIPLOMATIC DISCUSSIONS AND NOTE EXCHANGES, IF NEED BE, TO BRING BOTH PROBLEMS INTO FOCUS.

IX. ENHANCE BILATERAL COMMUNICATION AND LINKAGES.

USIS IS PREPARING A SEPARATE COUNTRY PLAN, WHICH IT WILL SUBMIT IN THREE STAGES. PART I, THE BILATERAL COMMUNICATION RELATIONSHIP, WILL BE SUBMITTED IN SEPARATE CABLE MARCH 10. PART II, PROGRAM PLANS, WILL BE POUCHED BY APRIL 10, AND PART III, PROJECTS, WILL BE POUCHED BY MAY 20. THE USIS COUNTRY PLAN WILL ADDRESS BILATERAL COMMUNICATIONS BETWEEN MEXICO AND THE U.S. AND WILL PROPOSE WAYS IN WHICH USIS PROGRAMS CAN SUPPORT THE AMBASSADOR'S GOALS AND OBJECTIVES. LUCEY

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